Bracknell Forest Council Eligibility Criteria Issued April 2010

The Department of Health has issued new eligibility criteria. The statutory guidance informs Local Authorities when making decisions about who is eligible for services commissioned by the Council. The new guidance from the Department of Health also suggests how local authorities should assess peoples' needs and urges each Local Authority to develop a Prevention Strategy.
Bracknell Forest Council is working on the development of a Prevention Strategy which will be useful for people who wish to make use of services in Bracknell to maintain their own independence and well being.
Pending its publication the following guidance has been issued to staff:

Bracknell Forest Council has adopted the new criteria as set out below:

Extract from Department of Health Guidance on Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care, England 2010:

54. The eligibility framework is graded into four bands, which describe the seriousness of the risk to independence and well-being or other consequences if needs are not addressed. The four bands are as follows:

Critical - when

• life is, or will be, threatened; and/or

• significant health problems have developed or will develop; and/or

• there is, or will be, little or no choice and control over vital aspects of the immediate environment; and/or

• serious abuse or neglect has occurred or will occur; and/or

• there is, or will be, an inability to carry out vital personal care or domestic routines; and/or

• vital involvement in work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained; and/or

• vital social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained; and/or

• vital family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken.

Substantial – when

• there is, or will be, only partial choice and control over the immediate environment; and/or

• abuse or neglect has occurred or will occur; and/or

• there is, or will be, an inability to carry out the majority of personal care or domestic routines; and/or

- involvement in many aspects of work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- the majority of social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- the majority of family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken.

Moderate – when

- there is, or will be, an inability to carry out several personal care or domestic routines; and/or
- involvement in several aspects of work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- several social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- several family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken.

Low - when

- there is, or will be, an inability to carry out one or two personal care or domestic routines; and/or
- involvement in one or two aspects of work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- one or two social support systems and relationships cannot or will not sustained; and/or
- one or two family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken.

Note: A significant health problem is now defined as a critical risk only.

Abuse or neglect are seen as substantial risks as well as critical depending on the severity.

The full guidance covers the use of universal services, targeting interventions and the assessment process. Further guidance applying the expectations of the Department of Health to the Bracknell Forest structure will be issued.

Pending local guidance staff are requested to read the Department of Health guidance to ensure the context in which the criteria above are to be used.

Department of Health Guidance can be found at:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_113154